CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for determining the optimum macronutrient content of a diet for an individual companion animal, the method comprising:

   providing to said animal food compositions which provide an enriched source of fat, protein and/or carbohydrate, such that said animal can select and consume preferred quantities of said food compositions in order to achieve an optimum consumption of fat, protein and carbohydrate;

   allowing said animal to consume preferred quantities of fat, protein and carbohydrate from said compositions;

   and determining, from the consumed amount of fat, protein and carbohydrate from said compositions, the optimum macronutrient content of a diet for said individual animal.

2. A method, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the food compositions which provide an enriched source of protein, fat and carbohydrate are provided as two or more different compositions, each composition having differing levels of at least protein and fat.

3. A method, as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the compositions which provide an enriched source of fat, protein or carbohydrate are dried, wet or semi-moist food products.

4. A method, as claimed in any one of claims 1-3, which includes a learning phase of a period of 3 days, or more.

5. A method, as claimed in any one of claims 1-4, wherein the source of fat comprises from 50 to 75% fat on a fat:energy ratio.

6. A method, as claimed in any one of claims 1-5, wherein the source of protein comprises from 50 to 75% protein on a protein:energy ratio.

7. A method, as claimed in any one of claims 1-6, wherein the source of carbohydrate comprises from 25 to 50% carbohydrate on a carbohydrate:energy ratio.

8. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1-7, wherein the companion animal is a cat, dog, horse, fish or bird.

9. An optimised macronutrient diet, for an individual animal, determined by a method as claimed in any one of claims 1-8.

10. An optimised macronutrient diet, as claimed in claim 9, which comprises two or more differing foodstuffs.